

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress  
2nd Session

Vote No. 39

March 23, 1998, 5:35 pm  
Page S-2406 Temp. Record

## EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL/No Funding for Certain Projects

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1998 . . . S. 1768. Stevens motion to table the McCain amendment No. 2063.

### ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 61-31

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 1768, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1998, will provide \$3.109 billion in mandatory and discretionary budget authority, including \$1.992 billion in emergency funding for the Department of Defense, \$561.9 million to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, and \$278.0 million in other discretionary supplemental appropriations. A total of \$273.9 million in rescissions and other offsets will also be enacted.

**The McCain amendment** would strike funding for the following purposes: \$33 million in emergency funds for levee and waterway repairs in Alabama and Mississippi; \$20 million for security upgrades around the Capitol complex; \$7.5 million as the first increment in a \$26.5 million project to repair the Capitol dome; \$6.9 million for several transportation projects (\$1.9 million for road construction related to the 2002 Winter Olympics, \$3 million to study transit requirements in Hawaii, and \$2 million to study Amtrak); \$4.48 million in emergency funds for maple producers; \$4 million for the dielectric wall accelerator technology for remote explosive detonation, radiography, and fusion applications (as requested by the Department of Defense and as fully offset within the Department); \$2 million to replace funds counties expected to receive from timber road construction projects cancelled due to a proposed moratorium on such projects; and \$80,000 to retrain workers at the Department of Energy's Pinellas Plant site in Florida.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Stevens moved to table the McCain amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

**Those favoring** the motion to table contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (61)				NAYS (31)		NOT VOTING (8)	
Republican (32 or 62%)		Democrats (29 or 73%)		Republicans (20 or 38%)	Democrats (11 or 28%)	Republicans (3)	Democrats (5)
Bennett	Helms	Akaka	Hollings	Abraham	Bryan	Bond <sup>-2</sup>	Biden <sup>-2</sup>
Burns	Hutchison	Baucus	Inouye	Allard	Feingold	D'Amato <sup>-2</sup>	Kerrey <sup>-2</sup>
Campbell	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kennedy	Ashcroft	Feinstein	Inhofe <sup>-2</sup>	Landrieu <sup>-2</sup>
Chafee	Lott	Boxer	Lautenberg	Brownback	Glenn		Mikulski <sup>-2</sup>
Cochran	Mack	Breaux	Leahy	Coats	Graham		Wyden <sup>-2</sup>
Collins	McConnell	Bumpers	Lieberman	Faircloth	Johnson		
Coverdell	Murkowski	Byrd	Moynihan	Gramm	Kerry		
Craig	Roberts	Cleland	Murray	Grams	Kohl		
DeWine	Sessions	Conrad	Reed	Gregg	Levin		
Domenici	Shelby	Daschle	Reid	Hutchinson	Moseley-Braun		
Enzi	Smith, Gordon	Dodd	Rockefeller	Kempthorne	Robb		
Frist	Snowe	Dorgan	Sarbanes	Kyl			
Gorton	Specter	Durbin	Torricelli	Lugar			
Grassley	Stevens	Ford	Wellstone	McCain			
Hagel	Thurmond	Harkin		Nickles			
Hatch	Warner			Roth			
				Santorum			
				Smith, Bob			
				Thomas			
				Thompson			

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

Emergency supplemental appropriations bills should be reserved for emergency spending and for noncontroversial spending that is fully offset, which is all that this bill contains. The McCain amendment would strike part of this needed, justified spending. For instance, it would strike the \$4 million for the development of electric wall accelerator technology. That appropriation was requested and is fully offset by a reduction in other defense funds. It is a simple reprioritization of funding. Accepting the McCain amendment would leave funding in place for a lower defense priority and would delay work on a higher priority. The McCain amendment would also strike an appropriation for levee and waterway repairs in Alabama and Mississippi that are needed to prevent future flooding. This appropriation is fully consistent with Senate precedent in dealing with emergency funding. Yet another item that has been questioned is the \$2 million that will be provided to counties that expected to receive timber revenues but now will not because of Federal Government cancelations of timber road construction projects. Many local governments rely heavily on such revenues to pay for local services; do our colleagues suggest that the local schools close for the year because of the Federal Government's sudden change in plans? Yet another provision that would be stricken by the McCain amendment is the provision of \$1.9 million for road projects in Utah to prepare for the Olympics. The basic contention of our colleagues is that Utah won the right to host the Olympics and it is therefore its sole responsibility to shoulder any resulting financial burdens. We disagree--all of the United States, not just Utah, will be seen by the world as the host, and the Federal Government should thus help with any necessary preparations. Nearly all of the spending in this bill is fully justified as emergency spending; a few items, such as the defense reprogramming provision mentioned above, are offset or otherwise paid for. We appreciate our colleagues' zeal to prevent wasteful spending, but they are wrong about the value of the items that would be stricken by the McCain amendment. We therefore urge Senators to support the motion to table.

**Those opposing** the motion to table contended:

The McCain amendment would strike several parasitic provisions that have been attached to the emergency funding in this bill. Almost all of the spending in this supplemental is urgently needed, either to provide continued support for military operations in Bosnia and the Persian Gulf or to respond to urgent disaster needs. There is not time to wait until the passage of the next appropriations bill to respond. It is that great need for spending that has tempted Members to add extraneous items, because they know that Senators urgently want to see this bill enacted. Members will allow some amounts of wasteful spending to pass as long as the bill is approved. This practice has been followed ever since spending caps were first enacted. Fortunately, in the past few years it has been sharply limited, but it still has not been stopped. The bill before us contains several extraneous items, some of which are labeled as "emergency" spending which will allow their cost to be added to the deficit. For instance, it will give \$33 million in emergency funds to repair levees and waterways in Alabama and Mississippi. That money was not even requested, so it is pretty hard for us to believe there is any true emergency need. If there is any value to the projects, they should be able to get funding in a few months during the regular appropriations process. Similarly, we do not see what the rush is to spend an additional \$1.9 million to build roads for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah, or \$3 million to study transit system requirements in Hawaii, or \$2 million to study Amtrak. This bill will also give maple sugar producers a special earmark of \$4.48 million in disaster aid because of the losses they incurred in this year's ice storms in Vermont. Certainly they suffered great losses, as did many other businesses and individuals. Those other businesses and individuals are receiving disaster aid through existing programs, as are the maple sugar producers. Why should maple syrup producers receive privileged treatment? The McCain amendment would strike these and other special interest provisions that have been unjustly attached to this emergency supplemental bill. We urge our colleagues to support it.